

GAVIN CE STUART

David Bates
1922-2006



It is with much regret that I pass along the news that our friend and colleague, Dr. David Bates, has passed away, peacefully at home on Tuesday, November 21, 2006. Dr. Bates, Professor Emeritus in the Departments of Medicine (Respiratory) and Health Care & Epidemiology, joined UBC in 1972 and served as Dean of the Faculty of Medicine from 1972 to 1977. He received his medical training from Cambridge University and began his career as a senior lecturer in medicine at the University of London. As a young doctor working at St. Bartholomew's Hospital during the London Smog Disaster of 1952, he recognized and initiated a research career into the connection between human health and air quality. Recruited to McGill University in 1956 as professor of experimental medicine, he undertook ground-breaking research into the dangers of ozone, and served as the first Associate Dean of Research as well as Chair of the Department of Physiology.

Dr. Bates is regarded as a pioneer in the fields of respiratory and environmental medicine in Canada. He helped to revolutionize the diagnosis of conditions such as chronic bronchitis and emphysema by demonstrating the importance of testing lung function. Committed to the study of the effects of air pollution on human health, he constantly strived to have medical research influence public policy. Dr. Bates retired from UBC in 1987, but continued to be an active member of the academic community. He tutored DPS in the undergraduate curriculum and lent his expertise to citizens' groups as well as national and international committees and commissions on matters of environmental medicine, air pollution, science policy and medical education.

Dr. Bates received several honours throughout his life including the Ramazzini Medal in 1966; Queen's Jubilee Medal in 1978; Connaught Award (Canadian Lung Association) in 1991; Trudeau Gold Medal in 1993; and the Order of Canada in 2003. The Environmental and Occupational Health assembly of the American Thoracic Society honoured Dr. Bates on his 80th birthday by establishing the David Bates Award which is given annually to a research trainee in recognition of the importance he placed on mentoring and supporting young investigators. Dr. Bates felt strongly that: *"The medical profession has a major responsibility to prevent the public's exposure to harm"* and he always lived up to this personal credo.

I know you all join me in expressing our heartfelt condolences to his family including his children, Joanna (Senior Associate Dean, Education), Elizabeth, and Andrew, and their families. David was predeceased by his wife, Dr. Margaret Sutton. A celebration of David's life was held at the Vancouver Unitarian Church, 949 West 49th Ave. on December 8, 2006.

Gavin CE Stuart, MD
Dean, Faculty of Medicine
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(Author's title given as of the time of writing)